

# WAR MEDICINE

## CONTRIBUTORS.

- DR. SIMON FLEXNER, Director of Rockefeller Institute.  
MAJOR THEODORE C. JANEWAY, M.R.C.  
DR. ALONZO E. TAYLOR, Hoover Food Administration Commission.  
ASSISTANT SURGEON-GENERAL J. W. TRASE, P.H.S.  
ASSISTANT SURGEON-GENERAL W. C. RUCKER, P.H.S.  
COL. FREDK. F. RUSSELL, M.C.  
DR. RICHARD M. PEARCE, American Red Cross.  
MAJOR E. G. BRACKETT, M.R.C.  
MAJOR R. M. YERKES, Sanitary Corps.  
DR. M. J. ROSENAU, Harvard University.  
MAJOR R. TAIT MCKENZIE, R.A.M.C.  
MR. DOUGLAS C. MCMURTRIE, Director of Institute for Crippled Soldiers and Sailors of American Red Cross.  
DRS. GRACE L. MEIGS and DOROTHY REED MENDENHALL, of Children's Bureau, U. S. Dept. of Labor.  
DR. C. V. CHAPIN, Supt. of Health, Providence.  
DR. E. E. SOUTHARD, Director of Psychopathic Dept., Boston State Hospital.  
DR. A. N. RICHARDS, University of Pennsylvania.  
DR. W. H. F. ADDISON, Philadelphia.  
DR. D. L. EDSALL, Harvard University.  
DR. GRAHAM LUSK, Cornell University.  
DR. O. H. PERRY PEPPER, Philadelphia.  
DR. W. P. LUCAS, American Red Cross.  
MAJOR FRED H. ALBEE, Director of Military Reconstruction, Hospital No. 3, U. S. A.  
DR. RUFUS COLE, Rockefeller Institute.  
DR. W. ESTELL LEE, Philadelphia.  
DR. JOHN A. HARTWELL, Cornell University.  
DR. PAUL A. LEWIS, Phipps Institute.  
MAJOR WARFIELD T. LONOCOPE, M.R.C.  
RALPH PEMBERTON, American Red Cross.

**The Scabies Problem on Active Service.**—MACCORMAC and SMALL (*British Med. Jour.*, September 22, 1917). Diseases of the skin are very important from the point of view of military efficiency, for they occupy one of the premier positions in producing "casualties." Under the conditions of trench warfare they prevail very widely, and since many are contagious, preventive measures are highly important. Next to pediculosis, scabies is the commonest skin disease met with among soldiers. Under the hard conditions of active service, secondary pyodermic complications are frequent and severe and cause prolonged sickness. While simple, uncomplicated cases are cured in three or four days, those with pyodermic complications are incapacitated from duty, and in a large series of cases observed the average stay in hospital was one month. The primary disease is often marked by these complications, such as impetigo, furunculosis, dermatitis, and inguinal adenitis, and in all cases of these, scabies must be carefully looked for. The characteristic interdigital burrows are found much less frequently than in civil practice, and indeed there is often complete absence of all lesions from the hands. In the majority of cases the penis is involved and the discovery of papules or crusts is almost pathognomonic. In addition to the associated pyodermic complications and

pediculosis, the condition must also be diagnosed from pompholyx, venereal disease, and an unusual papular urticaria. All the evidence points to blankets as being the chief means of disseminating infection. Blankets should, therefore, be sterilized as often as possible. Infected men should be segregated and treated as soon as possible. To discover the infection before it spreads, regular medical inspection is necessary. A few cases seem to be contracted from horses, and therefore these must also be inspected. Treatment is by simple inunction with sulphur ointment, and good results are invariably attained, if the treatment is conscientiously carried out and with due regard to the necessary details. These the authors give in outline. They condemn the unreliable sulphur vapor method, which was discredited a hundred years ago, but which has been revived again.

### RECALLED TO LIFE.<sup>1</sup>

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE CARE, RE-EDUCATION, AND RETURN TO CIVIL LIFE OF DISABLED SAILORS AND SOLDIERS.

No. 1.

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Facilities for Special Treatment.  
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#### I. INTRODUCTORY.

It is here set forth that:

"It is the purpose of this Journal to diffuse as widely as possible among those who are in any way concerned with the welfare of our sailors and soldiers returning disabled from the war, and not less among such sailors and soldiers themselves, knowledge as to the means by which they may be restored, as nearly as the nature of their injuries permits, to full participation in, and full enjoyment of, the activities of civil life."

Then follows a brief consideration of some of the broadly social conditions to be met in this effort and the introduction concludes with the following:

"The organization now in being for training the disabled man, for opening to him a satisfactory place in life, and incidentally

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